





Autobiography of
HARM JAN
HUIDEKOPER

CAMBRIDGE • MASSACHUSETTS

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ROSALIND HUIDEKOPER GREENE

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CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS, U.S.A.

To

ELIZABETH HUIDEKOPER KIDDER

ON HER ONE HUNDREDTH

BIRTHDAY.

DURING ALL HER LIFE SHE HAS SHOWN FORTH

THE HIGH PRINCIPLES OF HER

PIONEER GRANDFATHER

TOGETHER WITH SUCH LOVING-KINDNESS, GHARM, WIT

AND BEAUTY AS SHALL NOT BE SEEN AGAIN

IN THE NEXT 100 YEARS.

JULY 17, 1951

Butterfield

11 Oct 80

Gen. J. T.

LETTER OF PRESENTATION

July 12, 1951

Dearest Aunt Elizabeth

Dear Cousin Elizabeth,

Knowing that you did not wish too many telegrams on July 17, nor a hoard of presents, which would crowd the dear rooms at Hill Home, we have made you a joint present, which is really a present to ourselves.

As many among the younger generation know little of the beginnings of our family on this continent, and believing we will all be better citizens of this country, and of the modern world, for understanding the devoted life and labor of our ancestor, Harm Jan Huidekoper, we have reprinted his short autobiography, which was a legacy to his children. In this memoir we are reunited to Holland and are proud to be so.

This will remind many of us to re-read the full biography which you so carefully prepared, and which has many admirable chapters not covered by these autobiographical notes. In the meantime, we wish you to know that your generosity and charm have never blinded us to the fact that, as with Harm Jan Huidekoper, it was character, sheer unbreakable courage and character, that enabled all your other gifts to help us so much.

The very little children have worked to earn this

book—boys of five and seven have sold bait to fishermen so that they could give you a present.

With our love on July 17, and always,

Your affectionate family, from both sides of the ocean,

Travis T. Brown *and* Ann Huidekoper Brown
Janet Huidekoper Brown
4848 Dexter Street, Washington 7

Maria Heldring Bye
17 Lynnwood Road, Scarsdale, N. Y.

James Freeman Clarke
Eliot Channing Clarke
29 Brimmer Street, Boston

Susan Lowell Clarke
% Merchants National Bank, Boston

Frazer Lowber Welsh Dougherty *and* Page Huidekoper Dougherty
Frazer Page Dougherty
Rush Huidekoper Dougherty
Ariel Maria Dougherty
Page Independence Dougherty
Bethel, Conn.

Edward W. Fay *and* Bessie duPont (Huidekoper) Fay
2934 Edgevale Terrace, Washington 8

L. Cushing Goodhue *and* Gertrude M. Goodhue
Proctor Street, Manchester, Mass.

H. Shippen Goodhue *and* Lydia Russell Goodhue
Edmund Munroe Goodhue
Lawrence Cushing Goodhue, 2nd
Henry Shippen Goodhue, Jr.
90 Dover Road, Wellesley, Mass.

Albert Palmer Gould *and* Elizabeth Lowell Gould
Albert Palmer Gould, Jr.
Elizabeth Lowell Gould
Anna Eliot Gould
Shepley Hill Orchard, Groton, Mass.

- Henry Copley Greene *and* Rosalind Huidekoper Greene
10 Longfellow Park, Cambridge 38, Mass.
- Katrine Rosalind Copley Greene
229 East 48th Street, New York 17
- Caroline Gunning
8 Hoge Naarderung, Hilversum, Holland
- Catherine Fabius-Gunning
Amsterdam Z, Rubensstraat 62, Holland
- W. Brede Kristensen *and* Jacoba Kristensen Heldring
31 Witte Singel, Leiden, Holland
- Frederic Fitz-James Christie Huidekoper *and* Virginia Huidekoper
 Christie Huidekoper
 Zaidee Goff Huidekoper
 James Shippen Huidekoper
Wilson, Wyoming
- Henry Shippen Huidekoper *and* Mary G. Huidekoper
 Nancy G. Huidekoper
 Barbara G. Huidekoper
5044 Macomb Street, Washington 16
- Peter G. Huidekoper *and* Mary Beckman Huidekoper
 Lucy Livingstone Huidekoper
 Peter G. Huidekoper, Jr.
70 Loring Road, Weston, Mass.
- Prescott Huidekoper *and* Lynn E. Huidekoper
 Lynn Nelson Huidekoper
 Rosalind Dennis Huidekoper
 Hugh van Eeghen Huidekoper
 Francis Revell Huidekoper
36 Holmes Lane, Milton 86, Mass.
- Nannie Nelson Huidekoper (Mrs. Prescott Huidekoper)
1243 34th Street, Washington 7
- Hugh Judge Jewett *and* Rosalind Huidekoper Jewett
5603 Waycrest Lane, Baltimore
- Richard Henning Landrum *and* Elizabeth Huidekoper Landrum
 Vivianne Huidekoper Landrum
 Richard Henning Landrum, 2nd
 David Victor Landrum
 Daniel Christie Landrum
2511 North East 13th Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Charles N. Loveland *and* Mabel Bond Loveland
103 West River Street, Wilkesbarre, Pennsylvania

Francesca Copley Morgan (Mrs. Copley Morgan)
 Evelyn Vernor Kennedy Morgan
 John Singleton Copley Morgan
10½ Longfellow Park, Cambridge 38, Mass.

Lewis F. Perry *and* Alice de Vermandois Perry
 Samuel Dexter Perry
 Elizabeth Lowell Perry
 Alice de Vermandois Perry
26 Old Orchard Road, Chestnut Hill, Mass.

J. Cornelius Rathborne *and* Nancy Huidekoper Rathborne
 J. Cornelius Rathborne, Jr.
 Prescott Huidekoper Rathborne
 Nancy Winship Rathborne
 Ernestine Nelson Rathborne
Refuge Plantation, Harvey, Louisiana

Sigourney Bond Romaine *and* Laura French Romaine
 Matilda Bowen Romaine
 Sigourney Bond Romaine, Jr.
 David French Romaine
162 East 66th Street, New York 21

Elizabeth Huidekoper Wells Stabler (Mrs. J. Herbert Stabler)
2441 P Street, Washington 7

Major Warwick Brooke Stabler *and* Caroline Fontaine Stabler
 Elizabeth Fontaine Stabler
 Alexandra Maury Stabler
2707 Pecan Drive, Fayetteville, North Carolina

Wells Stabler
Department of State, Washington

Gordon Sweet *and* Joy Sweet
 Jonathan Copley Sweet
 Gay Sweet
"Joydon Farm," Mount Carmel, Conn.

Rose C. Loveland Toulmin (Mrs. Loveland Toulmin)
 Peter N. Toulmin
 Hugh Huidekoper Toulmin
 Paul Toulmin
Center Street, Dover, Mass.

- Jacob M. Croockewit and Catharina Croockewit van Eeghen
Twintig Hoevenweg, Dordrecht, Holland
- Christian P. van Eeghen and Henriette van Eeghen-Heldring
 Christian P. van Eeghen, Jr., and Margaretha A. C. van
 Eeghen-Langeveld
 Daniel F. W. Langelaan and Gertrui M. Langelaan van Eeghen
Heerengracht 497, Amsterdam
- Isabella H. van Eeghen
Prinsengracht 556, Amsterdam
- Regorus Korthals Altes and Louise Korthals Altes van Eeghen
Botticellistraat 6, Amsterdam
- Louise C. A. van Eeghen
9 Avenue Soret, Geneva, Switzerland
- Pieter van Eeghen
Amstel 97, Amsterdam
- Elizabeth Lowell Ware (Mrs. Charles Eliot Ware)
Shepley Hill Orchard, Groton, Mass.
- H. Hallett Whitman and Margaret C. Whitman
 H. Hallett Whitman, Jr.
 Anne Whitman
Proctor Street, Manchester, Mass.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF
HARM JAN HUIDEKOPER



Autobiography of

HARM JAN HUIDEKOPER

My dear children,

I have long intended to make a short memoir of my life for your use, but, like other matters which can be done at any time, it has been postponed to this late hour. The late request of Frederic has however recalled my attention to this subject, and the recent death of your good Mother, has forcibly reminded me, that, at the age of sixty-three we must not postpone what we intend doing to an uncertain future.

In the performance of the task on which I now enter, I shall have no stirring events to recount. Mine has not been what is commonly called an *eventful* life, and to a stranger the memoir of it would have no interest. But to you, my children, nothing is indifferent which relates to me. It will be interesting to you, to trace by what steps a kind Providence has led your Father from a far distant country to this place; and besides it may happen to be of use to you to know how, and in what manner you are connected in Europe.

BIRTH AND ANCESTORS

I was born on the 3rd April 1776 at Hogeveen, a large village in the district (Landeschap) of Drenthe, forming part of what was then denominated the Seven United Provinces; now, the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Drenthe is a poor, heathy district, bounded on the South by the Province of Over-Yssel; on the North by the Province of Groningen; on the West by the Province of Vriesland or Friesland, and on the East by Germany. It was associated with the Seven United Provinces, and had a district government of its own, but was not represented in the General Assembly of the States or Provinces. Its share in the general expenses of the Government of the Union was assessed at one per cent.

My father was Anne Huidekoper, and my Mother Gesiena Frederica Wolters. The former was born in Friesland of a Frisian family and removed to Hogeveen after he had attained the meridian of life, but at what precise time I know not. I think it must have been between the years 1765 and 1773. Of my paternal ancestors I know little or nothing, having never made any particular inquiry about them. From what I recollect hearing from my Father, I infer that they were decent Burghers who lived respectably by the pursuit of some profession or calling. My Grandfather Jan

Huidekoper, married a Miss Oldaan or Oldaen, (I am not certain how the name is spelled). If I mistake not, the coat of arms now used by the Huidekopers was derived from the Oldaan family. Your cousin Albert informed me some years ago that this coat of arms was found on one of the escutcheons hung up in one of the churches either in the province of Groningen or East Friesland, and that the family descend from a Jurist who, being a protestant, fled in the Sixteenth Century from Flanders or Brabant to escape the religious persecutions of that day, and established himself in Friesland. My paternal ancestors, so far as I know, all belonged to the Menonist Society, a sect resembling the Quakers in several respects.

My Grandfather, Jan Huidekoper, had, if I recollect right, seven children, namely two sons Anne (my Father) and Peter; five daughters one of whom was married to Albert Scheltinga; a second married to a Mr. Lamsma; a third married to a Mr. Fontein, and two who lived and died single.

My Uncle Pieter (who lived at Harlingen, a seaport in Friesland, and the place of residence of my paternal ancestors) had five children, namely, three sons and two daughters. Of the sons, the two eldest named Folkert and Gerlof, died unmarried. The third, Jan, now survives and has a family. One of his daughters is married to your cousin John, who was formerly

here. Of the two daughters of Pieter Huidekoper, Anne, the youngest, was married and left a family at her death. I do not recollect the name of her husband.

My aunt Scheltinga died without leaving issue.

My aunt Lamsma had three children, a son and two daughters. The son and one of the daughters were never married. The other daughter was first married to a physician of the name of Meurs and after his death, to a person whose name I do not recollect. I think she had children. My aunt Fontein had at least one son, who was called Peter, and who had a family but where they live I know not. The Mr. Fontein which Frederic saw is, I suspect, of another branch with whom we are more distantly connected.

The other two sisters of my Father were never married. Their names were Elizabeth and Hincke—of what name this last is an abbreviation I do not now recollect.

My Mother was born at Vries, a small Village in Drenthe situated a few miles south of the city of Groningen. She belonged to one of those old decayed families, so common in many parts of Europe, who occupy a kind of middle rank between the nobility and the mass of the community, and which in England are designated by the name of Gentry. Of my maternal ancestors I know very little. I might have obtained much information in regard to them from my Mother

who was well informed on this subject, but this was a matter in which I felt little interest, and I left Europe while young. I merely know that the family must have resided long in Drenthe, and have been of some standing, as of the twenty-one bailiffs who were placed over that number of subdistricts in which Drenthe was divided, eighteen were connected in a more or less distant degree with it.

My Grandfather, Harm Jan Wolters (after whom I was named) was Schout or Bailiff of Vries, as, I believe, his father had been before him and his eldest son was after him. We have no office in this country precisely analogous to this. It combined the duties originally belonging to the office of Justice of the Peace, with those belonging to the Sheriff, the Register and the Recorder. This office was generally held for life.

My Grandmother's family name was Ketel. Some of her ancestors had devoted themselves to the military service of the country and, if I recollect right, her father had attained the rank of Major General in the Dutch service. When a boy I met among the papers of an old maternal uncle of my Mother's, with some military reports or memoranda, made about the beginning of the last century, during the wars then carried on by the Dutch against Louis XIV of France. If I had them now, their contents might, even at this day, be interesting.

My Grandfather had five children namely two sons and three daughters. Of the sons, the youngest never was married. The eldest married late in life, but had no children, and, at his death, the family name of Wolters became extinct, at least so far as I know. Of the three daughters one died unmarried. A second was married to a Mr. Groenenberg living in Groningen, and had children, but how many I know not. I merely heard that one of her sons went to Surinam and settled there. The third daughter of my Grandfather was my Mother.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS

My Father was twice married. By his first wife, whom he married while he yet resided in Friesland, but who died after he had removed to Hogeveen, he had two children, a daughter called Saapke and a son called Jan. In the year 1775 he was married to my Mother, and by her he had three children, myself, who was the oldest, my sister Henderina Catherine and my brother Pierre Ketel. Of these I alone survive. My sister Saapke was married to Albert Steenberg, a lawyer, and afterwards Schout or Bailiff at Hogeveen. She survived her husband for some years, and left at her death two children, a son named Cornelius and a daughter. This daughter, if I recollect right, was married to a gentleman of the name of

Meyer, but died young without leaving issue. Cornelius Steenbergen is now living. He has been married to a Miss Prins and has by her three children, a son and two daughters. The son is a cripple. He resides at present at Haerlem in Holland, and is a painter by profession. He is said to possess talents, and an amiable disposition.

My brother John was twice married—the first time to a Miss Gertrude Stinstra, and the second time to a Miss Jacoba de Bic. By his last wife, who survived him, he had no issue, but by his first wife, (besides a son named after me, who died young) he had six children all of whom now survive, namely, four sons, viz. Anne Wilhelm, Pieter, Jan and Albert; and two daughters, viz. Annette and Gertrude. Of my Brother's children, Pieter has married a Miss Van Eeghen (sister of John and Pieter Van Eeghen). His wife is dead, but she has left him two daughters. Annette is married to Pieter Van Eeghen, by whom she has a family; and John is married to a daughter of my cousin Jan Huidekoper of Harlingen in Friesland; he now lives at Midlum near Harlingen, he is a farmer and has a family.

My sister Henderina Catherina, and my brother Pierre Ketel both died unmarried, the former at Hogeveen, the latter at Meadville.

PHYSICAL CONSTITUTION

As I mentioned before; I was born on the 3rd of April 1776. At my birth my constitution was so feeble, that but little hope was entertained of my living, and this state of weakness continued during my early years. At one time the family actually supposed me to be dead, and were about laying me out, when symptoms of remaining animation were discovered; and I was three years old before I was able to walk. From that time on however my health began to improve. I was suffered to be much in the open air, and to take as much exercise as I pleased, and this, no doubt, was useful in strengthening me, and in developing my physical powers, and before I had attained my tenth year my health had become quite firm. It is true that I did not then, nor afterwards, possess as great a degree of muscular strength as some others, but in uniform good health and in the power to endure fatigue or the inclemency of the weather, few excelled me. With the exception of a slight attack of fever which I had when I was about eleven years old, I have no recollection of having been seriously indisposed until I had a severe attack of dyspepsia in my fiftieth year; and since I recovered from that, my health, though somewhat less firm, has been good, for one at my time of life. From my infancy until I attained the age of about

twenty-five I was remarkably lean, and my complexion was sallow, so that I was often asked whether I was in bad health. About the latter period I began to increase in flesh, and my color assumed a more healthy appearance.

CHILDHOOD AND CHILD'S SCHOOL

My earlier days were spent like those of most children in a country village, my time being divided between play and going to school. It is among the earliest of my recollections that I went, with the other children of my age, to a Dame school, where from a hornbook, suspended by a riband, either from the neck or from a button hole, I was taught my letters. What further progress I made at this school in the black art I do not now remember.

From the Dame school I was in due time removed to the common school of the village. At that time the improvements, since introduced in the common school system were unknown, this was but a poor concern, at which nothing was pretended to be taught but reading, writing, and cyphering. The first of these branches was generally, perhaps necessarily, much neglected, for, where in a large school, every scholar had to read singly to the Master, but a very short space of time could be allotted by him to any one. As to grammars of the dutch language, they were never used. In writing and

cyphering the instruction, was somewhat more thorough, and I imbibed in that school that fondness for arithmetical operations which has adhered to me ever afterwards.

I have called this school a common school because it was open to all and was the only one kept in the village. It was not, however, a free school. Those who went to it had to pay weekly some small matter for tuition, the precise amount of which I do not now recollect. I merely know that here it would have appeared to be a mere trifle, within the means of every one, while there it was considered large enough to prevent many children from being sent to school, so that the number of scholars, in a village containing about six thousand inhabitants, did not amount to one hundred, perhaps not to seventy-five.

The fact I have just stated is not calculated to make you have very exalted ideas of the intellectual situation of my birth place at the time of which I am speaking. The fact is, my dear children, that it would be difficult for you, who have been brought up in a community in which a considerable degree of intelligence universally prevails, and where even persons who can neither read nor write become intelligent by their intercourse with others, to form any adequate conception of the degree of intellectual darkness which then rested on my native province, and on some other parts of Europe.

A few facts will however enable you to form some idea in regard to it.

STATE OF SOCIETY AT HOOGEVEEN

In the first place but a small portion of the community learned to read, and of those who did, very few indeed ever read any other books than the bible and the Metrical collection of the Psalms used in the church. Books there were none except a few belonging to some of the better educated and to which the mass of the inhabitants had no access; and as to newspapers, these the commonalty never saw. At Hoogeveen there were perhaps two or three newspapers taken a week by clubs similar to our book clubs here, and, among the members, the papers were passed from hand to hand by rotation. But these papers were totally dissimilar to the newspapers of this country. They contained no essays, dissertations or discussions on interesting subjects, but were filled with mere abstracts of foreign and domestic news, given in the most condensed form. A few periodical publications, chiefly political, were taken by the same class in the same manner. It is true that the children of the *Gentry* received a somewhat better education. These were generally sent from home to some boarding school, or to some country minister to be qualified for college; and next to college to qualify themselves for the ministry, the bar or some public

office. These, of course, were considerably superior to the mass of the community in intelligence; but then their numbers were comparatively small, and what was worse, they formed among themselves an exclusive caste, between which and the laboring classes there was no social intercourse, so that the latter had little chance of being improved by the superior information of the former.

In the second place there was no intercourse between Drenthe and more enlightened parts of the country, so as to have enabled the inhabitants to improve themselves by their intercourse with others. It was only the members of the more favored class who occasionally visited the distant cities. As to the laboring classes these literally lived and died at home. I suspect that a great majority of these never went a distance of twenty miles from their place of residence and the few strangers they came occasionally in contact with, were mostly inhabitants of adjoining villages, men as little enlightened as themselves. There was, it is true, one class of the inhabitants of Hoogeveen who strayed somewhat further from home than their fellow citizens, namely the shippers engaged in the transportation of turf, and their assistants, but even these had not such an intercourse with the world as was calculated to increase their intelligence much, except so far as related to their particular branch of busi-

ness. In one word, I can compare the intellectual situation of Drenthe, and of many other parts of Europe at that time, to nothing better than to those German Counties of Pennsylvania into which the English language and civilization have not penetrated; with this difference, that in Europe mankind were divided into exclusive castes, of which the gentry caste had some mental cultivation; the mechanical caste, much less, and the farming and laboring caste, least of all.

DOMESTIC SITUATION

Such was, in an intellectual point of view, the state of society in which I was placed in early life, and my domestic situation was not more favorable to the early development of my mental powers. My Father's education had been very much neglected. His mind had not been improved either by study, by reflection or by his intercourse with the world. He was kind to me, but could not impart to me knowledge which he did not possess himself. My Mother's mind was of a much higher order; and she had made good use of the few means for obtaining knowledge which were accessible to her, but unfortunately, these had been very slender. In her time female education was in general much neglected; and besides this she was born and educated in a small village, which possessed yet fewer

means of instruction than the generality of larger cities. The extent of her knowledge was, therefore, very limited, but the little she did know she knew well, for she had reflected on what she did hear and see, and her reasoning powers were good. To this was united an excellent heart and an amiable disposition. I was the object of her fondest affection, perhaps because my weakly state of health had caused her so much trouble and anxiety; and I owe to her a deep debt of gratitude. If she could not do much towards the development of my mental powers, she made more than amends for this deficiency by cultivating in me the affections of the heart, and by inculcating in me the love of virtue.

BOARDING SCHOOL

I remained in the paternal family until I had attained the age of ten years, and I was then sent to a boarding school at Hasselt in the Province of Overysel, to pursue my studies. In the selection of this school, economy (which my Father's situation rendered necessary) and the proximity to my native home were more consulted than the quality of the school, which, though it had somehow acquired considerable reputation, was really a wretched institution. The principal was a good but uninformed man. The French teacher was ignorant and worthless and the usher

we had for part of the time, was a good natured illiterate lad. Neither the instruction nor the moral conduct of the scholars was properly attended to, and the whole course of instruction was limited to writing, arithmetic and the French language. At this school I remained (with the intermission of nearly a year which I spent at home or in visiting my relations) until I had completed my seventeenth year. At that time my elder brother John took pity on me, and seeing that I was merely wasting my time at Hasselt, and knowing that my Father's means did not allow him to do any thing more for me he proposed to send me, at his expense, to complete my education at Crefelt in Germany. To this act of fraternal generosity I have been indebted for much of my success in after life.

In order properly to appreciate this conduct of my Brother's you must know, my dear children, that we were only half brothers; that he had been very seldom at home for several years past, and therefore was little acquainted with me; that a small fortune, which came to him from his Mother, had already been considerably impaired by the wants of my Father, and that my Brother, at that time, was himself only a clerk in the countinghouse of the Messrs. Hope and had little else besides his salary. His conduct to me was a generous and noble one, and I shall feel grateful to him for it as long as I live.

ADMISSION TO CHURCH

Before I left Hasselt I was, after the usual course of instruction, admitted as a regular member of the Dutch Reformed Church. This was, at that time, the national church in Holland. It was the church to which my Mother belonged and in which I had been educated and was the only church which existed in my native province. The course of catechetical instruction through which I went previous to my admission to church membership was not much calculated either to increase my knowledge of the scriptures or to cultivate in me a religious spirit. It consisted almost exclusively in getting the Heidelberg Catechism by-heart, and in learning to cite certain texts of scriptures in support of the dogmas it contains.

LIFE AT THE CREFELD "INSTITUTE"

In the early part of the summer of 1793 I went to Crefeld and entered the *Institute* at that place. This is a name given in Germany to a kind of high school or academy in which in addition to all the branches of a thorough common education, the dead and living languages are taught, so as to qualify young men either to enter the university, the counting-house or the army according to their several destinations. The Institute at Crefeld was, at the time I entered it, an

excellent one of its kind. Professor Shehl, who was at the head of it, and his four or five assistant professors, were all amiable and well-informed men, who knew how to impart their knowledge to others, and who possessed the far more difficult art of managing boys to an admiration, so that some seventy or eighty young men of all ages and languages, Germans, Hollanders, Belgians and English, were all kept in the most perfect order simply by the moral influences which these teachers had acquired over us. What contributed, probably much to the good order of this school was that we were well, and, I may say, kindly treated. Our lodging was always clean, our food was good of its kind, well cooked, and always abundant; and we were always spoken to and treated as young gentlemen, and rational beings.

Here I found myself all at once translated, as it were, to an entirely new world. I had hitherto only come in contact with persons who were from half a century to a century behind the age, and I now found myself in the society, and under the care of gentlemen who by their acquirements and their modes of thinking belonged to the age in which they lived.

My new situation would have been altogether delightful had it not been for a couple of pretty serious drawbacks. The first of these was that I felt humiliated to see that many of my fellow scholars, younger than

myself, knew more than I did; and the second was that I found myself in an Institute where all the instruction was given in German, of which language I was entirely ignorant. I felt, however, that these were difficulties which could be overcome by dint of labor and application; and I set myself resolutely to work to overcome them. Luckily there is so much similarity between the Dutch and German languages (the former being in fact only a different dialect of the latter) that a Hollander can, in a very short time, acquire a sufficient knowledge of the German to understand it, and even to speak it; and as I heard little else spoken than German, and could avail myself of my knowledge of the French language to ask explanations of any term which I did not comprehend, I was enabled, in a very short time to pursue my studies with the rest of the scholars. It is true, that in order to do this I had to resort to some expedients. Thus, when a mathematical lesson was dictated I took it down in Dutch and, if translations had to be made from the French, my versions were in my mother tongue. Soon, however, I learned to speak the German language, and even to write it in the German Character; and by the dint of application and perseverance I had the satisfaction of finding myself, by the end of the first year, ranked among the first scholars of the Institute.

This was a happy period of my life, and one to which I have always looked back with pleasure. All my studies (with the exception perhaps of the mathematics for which I had then not much taste) were pleasing to me. For the first time in my life I could have access to a large and well chosen library, containing all the best German and French authors. I felt my mind gradually expanding, and opening itself to new ideas; and I enjoyed the friendship and esteem of my teachers and of my fellow scholars.

In order to enable you to form a more correct idea of my manner of living at Crefeld, I will enter into some details in regard to it. I generally rose about six o'clock in the morning. This, during the winter was much earlier than most of my fellow-students rose, it being in that latitude hardly day before eight o'clock in winter, but by studying in the morning for a couple of hours by candle light I had the means of preparing myself well for the lessons of the day. About seven o'clock in the summer and eight in the winter we had morning prayers, and immediately after that breakfast. This was not a social meal as it usually is in this country. Every one received a bowl of coffee or milk and a small wheaten loaf and went to eat when, where and how he pleased. The regular hours of instruction were in the morning from nine to twelve, and in the afternoon from one or half after

one till four or five. Extra studies, such for instance as the study of the English language, were generally pursued at stated hours in the evening; and the remaining hours of the evening, and the intermediate hours of the day, were devoted to preparatory studies, translating, &c. Our dinner hour was about half past twelve. Our dinner invariably consisted of a good substantial beef soup; boiled beef and a variety of vegetables. To this was added half a tumbler of Rhenish wine three times a week. This mode of living would appear to be wanting in variety, to persons in other countries, where meat is considered as the main dish at dinner. But, on the continent of Europe, vegetables and not meat, were considered as the essential part of the dinner, and these admitted of so much variety, both as to kind and mode of dressing, that this mode of living never appeared to tire for want of variety. At 5 or 6 o'clock in the evening we had again a bowl of coffee or milk and a wheaten loaf similar to what we had at breakfast; and at half after nine we had supper. This consisted generally of some of the lighter kinds of meat, such as veal, mutton &c and of different kinds of vegetables, according to the season of the year. After supper came the evening prayer, and immediately after that we all went to bed.

But all our hours were not devoted to study. Exercise and recreation were also attended to, and entered

systematically into the plan of our education. Three afternoons in the week, namely those of Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday were specially appropriated to exercise. Then under the superintendence of one of the Professors, who for that week had the inspection, we, in a body, sallied out of town, and made excursions of greater or less extent, according to the season of the year or the length of the days. Sometimes we spent the whole afternoon in walking to visit some wood, ruin or distant village. At other times we visited either some farm or public garden, and partook of some simple refreshments; and if during the winter the weather did not admit of our taking our accustomed walks, care was taken to make us dance for half an hour every evening, and in these dances the Professor's wife and children regularly joined. On Sunday evening in winter, we all attended the Sunday concert. At this, besides the professed musicians, a number of the principal ladies and gentlemen of the place, and among those some of the professors of the Institute, composed the orchestra, or were the performers; and here we were sure to meet all the principal inhabitants of the city.

As I was now about eighteen, and had acquired the confidence of the professors, I was permitted, whenever I chose to do so, to spend the afternoons set apart for exercise, in visiting my friends in and near town,

and of this permission I frequently availed myself. Besides the Rev. Mr. Vander Ploeg, the Mennonist minister, a countryman of my own with whom I was very intimate, I had formed a number of other acquaintances, principally among the young ladies and in the company of the latter I spent many agreeable hours in conversation, walking, listening to music, or in dancing; for dancing there was not, as here, an evening work, but only a short interlude by which the amusements of the afternoon were diversified.

Before leaving Crefeld it may not be amiss to inquire what influence my residence there had on my moral and religious character. Every week there was a lecture delivered to us on Moral Science. These lectures I listened to with intense interest, and not without profit, so that, if I did not deceive myself, I left the Institute better than when I entered it. In regard to the religious sentiment, my improvements were perhaps of a less decided character. Not that I felt indifferent on the subject of religion. I was regular in my attendance at divine service every Sunday morning. I had entered myself as a member of the German reformed church, (which is essentially the same as the Dutch reformed church) and in that church I communed; but I generally worshipped with the Mennonist Society, because the services there were in the low Dutch language, which, at least in the begin-

ing, I could better understand. I also lost some of my Calvinistic notions, and my feelings became considerably more liberal; but I had no very decided opinions as to the doctrines of Christianity, and I did not appreciate the importance of religion as it deserved to be appreciated.

During the last winter of my stay at Crefeld it was the headquarters of the French army of Sambre et Meuse, then commanded by General Jourdan; afterwards one of the *Maréschals* of France. This army, after gaining the hard (sic) contested battle of Fleurus, which lasted three days, and a less considerable action on the Bohe (if my memory serves me) forced the Imperial army (as the united Austrian and Germanic army was then called) to take shelter on the right bank of the Rhine. This happened in the fall of the year 1794. I have some reason of remembering the retreat of the Imperialists, as I run some risk of getting into a scrape by it. The students had, on a Saturday afternoon, gone to a farm belonging to the Institute. This farm was situated near an extensive heath, the field of battle where, during the seven years war, the French were defeated by the Prussian army under the hereditary Prince of Brunswick. To that field, still covered with the lines and other works formerly thrown up by the French, one of my fellow students and myself went to exercise ourselves in prac-

tical Geometry, by measuring, or taking the bearings of some of these works. While thus engaged, we observed an object at a distance, which attracted our attention, and which we soon made out to be a body of cavalry moving in our direction. Instead of setting out immediately to give notice to our fellow students of the approach of these troops we, with true boyish thoughtlessness, hid ourselves in some bushes growing on the old French lines. Here we remained until the troops had come quite near. We then became sensible of the awkwardness of our situation. To retreat by the heath must have inevitably drawn on us the attention of the troops. We, therefore, leaped into the trench which fortunately ran nearly parallel with the road. Here the old lines hid us from being seen, and by running as fast as we could, we reached the farm in time to enable the students to retire towards town before the arrival of the troops. Had our motions (which certainly were somewhat suspicious) been observed, we might have gotten into difficulty. That same evening I went again with one of the professors to the farm in order to save the cattle, carts &c. Although it was now night, we still met with troops in rapid retreat; and we then learned that the retreat of this body towards Dusseldorf had been cut off and that they were now endeavouring to cross the Rhine lower down, towards Wesel, in which they succeeded.

A few days after this the French army arrived, and was for some time huddled on the old field of battle and the adjoining farms, the headquarters being in the town of Crefeld. The discipline of the army was excellent, and no disorders were committed by the troops, but the country suffered severely by the enormous requisitions that were made to feed and clothe the army, which was really destitute of everything. On this occasion I had an opportunity of seeing several persons whose names belong to the history of that eventful period. Besides the General in Chief Jourdan, there was Kléber, afterwards assassinated in Egypt; Le Lefebvre, subsequently Maréchal and Duke of Dantzic; Richepanse, who died Governor of one of the French West India islands; D'hautpoul, who was killed in battle in Germany, Gen. Championet, and if I mistake not, Bernadotte, the present King of Sweden, and Hoche, the pacificator of the Vendée. Of these two last I have, however, no distinct recollection.

I left Crefeld in the beginning of the summer of 1795, and I may as well mention here that the Institution which was already on the decline when I left it, was not long afterwards entirely broken up. Professor Schel, who was at the head of it, died in 1794. Shortly afterwards Professor Lange, one of the principal instructors, left it. These vacancies were inadequately supplied. Some time afterwards the widow

Schel married a gentleman who passed himself as a Swiss, but who was subsequently arrested as a French Emigrant and carried prisoner to Paris. His wife accompanied him and the school was broken up.

During my residence at Crefeld, my brother John had made a voyage to the United States and had returned to Holland. He sailed for America in 1793 and returned to Europe in the winter of 1794-1795. What was the precise object of his visit to this country I have never known positively. I have reason to believe, however, that he had been engaged by the directors of the Holland Land Company to be their general agent in this country in the place of Mr. Cazenove, who then held that station, but was about to be recalled; but that in consequence of an engagement which he contracted before leaving Europe, and which would oblige him to return to Holland, his trip to America was changed into a mere tour of observation.

My Brother had long been attached to a Miss Stinsstra, a distant relation of his, and his affection was, I believe, returned. But she was rich; my Brother was poor; she belonged to the burger aristocracy, and he was as yet nothing but a clerk in a counting house. These things which have much more weight in Europe than in this country, prevented their engagement. The lady was afterwards prevailed on to marry a very

wealthy man; was not happy; became soon a widow and engaged herself to my brother shortly before he set out for America. On his return he found her in the last stages of consumption, and arrived but just in time to see her breathe her last. About a year afterwards he married her younger sister, by whom he had seven children of which six now survive. She herself died some years ago.

DETERMINATION TO GO TO AMERICA

On my return to Holland I first visited my Brother John in Amsterdam, who kindly proposed to me the alternative, either to give me a situation as clerk in the commercial house he was about establishing, or to furnish me with the means of going to America. I determined in favor of the latter. Holland had been conquered by the French in the previous winter, and was now involved in a war with England, by which her commerce was in a great measure destroyed. A commercial career offered, therefore, no very flattering prospects to a young man without fortune or connections, who would have to enter into competition for a living with men who possessed both wealth and family influence, in a country over-stocked with inhabitants. On the other hand, America offered plenty of scope for individual exertion. Perhaps too that the enthusiastic manner in which my brother spoke

of America, and the wish I had in common with most Europeans of becoming a country gentleman and landed proprietor, in the European sense of that term, assisted in influencing my decision. It was therefore agreed that I should spend a year with my parents and relations, and that I should sail the following year for America.

After spending a few days with my brother in Amsterdam, I set out to visit my parents at Hogeveen. There I remained till the Summer of the following year, spending my time in reading such books as I could obtain, in fishing, hunting and in visiting some of my maternal relations particularly my mother's brothers at Vries, and an old uncle who lived at Peise. I felt reluctant to leave my parents, who were already advanced in life, for I felt that I should see them no more in this world; but I saw, too, that the time was not very distant when they would stand in need of assistance; and it was only by leaving them that I could hope to acquire the means of supplying their necessities.

VOYAGE TO AMERICA

About the latter part of June or the beginning of July 1796 I left my paternal home to commence my voyage. I stopped at Amsterdam, where I spent some weeks with my brother, who was then married and

was engaged in commercial business in partnership with a Swiss gentleman of the name of Tobler. A Mr. Bicker was afterwards admitted as a third partner into the concern, but it proved unprofitable and after a few years my brother withdrew from it, and commenced doing an insurance business by himself in which he was more successful. I left Amsterdam about the 10th of August in the trekschuit (canal boat) for the Helder, and sailed from thence on the 12th in the brig Prudence, Capt. Hovey.

This was a small vessel of one hundred and twenty tons burden, and altogether a sorry concern. She was old, leaky, a bad sailer, had poor rigging, and sails so old as to stand in constant need of repair. Everything else on board was in perfect keeping with this. The captain and mate were a couple of old sailors who after sailing many years before the mast had worked their way up until they had attained their present stations. They were good practical seamen; but very illiterate. The rest of the crew (besides the cook) consisted of five seamen, of which an English sloop of war impressed one the second day after we sailed, thus reducing our crew to the smallest number we could possibly get along with and rendering it totally inadequate to the management of the vessel in case one of the sailors should become sick, or meet with an accident which should disqualify him from doing duty.

"Besides this the mate, who was somewhat advanced in years, was of a feeble constitution and had a serious spell of sickness during the voyage. Luckily we had an extra mate on board, one who had belonged to another American vessel, but who having in Holland disagreed with his captain, had left his vessel and came over as a passenger in ours. This man was a valuable addition to our crew.

As to the table, our captain could not be charged with wasting the property of the owner in sumptuous living. For a few days after leaving port we had fresh mutton, but after that we were entirely confined to the ship's provisions, consisting of very salt and very hard beef, salt pork, sea-biscuit, bad butter, indifferent potatoes and beans. It is true we had a small supply of fowls on board; but as these were poorly taken care of and generally killed only after they got sick, to save their lives as our Captain phrased it, they did not mend our fare much.

You will perhaps ask how I came to embark on board of such a wretched vessel. This was owing to my brother's trusting the arrangement for my voyage to a Dutch shipbroker in whom he placed more confidence than the man deserved. There was at that time an excellent vessel lying in the port of Amsterdam bound to New York and which sailed two days before the Prudence. Of that vessel we were kept in utter

ignorance and through that man's instrumentality my passage was engaged on board of the old Brig.

We had a passage of sixty-three days. During the first three days I was seasick and for a week more I had no appetite. After that I was perfectly restored; ate my sea-biscuit with as much appetite as any one on board, and never felt myself in the least affected by the hardest weather we had. During the passage I had a good opportunity of exercising myself in learning to speak English. I had studied the English language somewhat while in Germany and could understand tolerably well what I read, but I could neither speak it intelligibly nor could I understand it when it was spoken by others. Gradually, however, I began to comprehend all that was said and before we arrived at New York I had learned to express my meaning, if not always correctly, at least intelligibly.

ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK

I arrived at New York on the 14th October 1796. While ascending the bay, a young man came on board and informed the captain that his owner (a Hamburger of the name of Hoffmann) had failed. In consequence of this information the brig came to anchor; and the captain, the young man who had boarded us, and I went ashore on Long Island, hired a carriage, and went to New York by land. At the

house where we hired the carriage I was very much struck with the appearance of a portion of the furniture. It was precisely such as I had occasionally seen in a few antiquated houses in Holland and nowhere else, and was evidently a relick of a former century, little in keeping with the appearance of things out of doors, and the dress and the manners of the persons whom I saw about. In a few minutes, however, everything was explained. While the carriage was getting ready dinner was served, and with it entered an old gentleman and lady dressed so exactly in the old Dutch fashion that I could not help thinking that I must be in an old Dutch family; and when a moment afterwards I heard the old man ask a blessing in provincial low Dutch I could almost have fancied myself back again in my own native province of Drenthe. I found afterwards that on Long Island, in New York along the North river, at Albany, Schenectady &c the low Dutch was yet in general the common language of most of the old people, and particularly of the Negroes though in New York it had begun to be superceded by the English language.

I thus, at the age of twenty, landed in a foreign country, with the language of which I was little acquainted, and which so far as I know, did not contain a single person that I had ever seen; and here I was to make my own way, with no other assistance than

what could be derived from two or three letters of introduction to countrymen of my own at Oldenbarneveldt (now Trenton) and Cazenovia; and a letter of credit for money to supply my present wants. What rendered my situation more difficult was that I had little or no acquaintance with the ways of the world; had never been accustomed to act for myself; and that my education had tended more to teach me what others had thought, than to think myself. I was, therefore, very deficient in experience; in proper reliance on myself and in the development of my mental powers. Such were some of the disadvantages under which I set out in this country, and, notwithstanding these a kind of providence has constantly so overruled events that with the exception of the loss of friends, my life has been an uninterrupted scene of prosperity.

The City of New York was then very different from what it is now, and did not impress me favorably. Everywhere the good and even handsome buildings were intermixed with mean, low, ugly buildings which appeared to have been created in derision of every principal of architecture and good taste; and besides my Dutch ideas were quite shocked to find the cows and hogs run loose in the streets.

JOURNEY TO OLDENBARNEVELDT (TRENTON)

I remained in New York four or five days, and then set out for Albany, in a common river sloop, the only mode of conveyance in those days. This was to me a delightful journey. I had never before seen either a rock or a mountain and you may judge how I was struck with the rocky scenery along the Hudson river and with the Highlands. Luckily I had a good opportunity of admiring this scenery at my leisure for we were four days on our passage, and the weather was fine. When the tide was in our favor we sailed slowly up the river; when it was unfavorable, we came to anchor, and then I went ashore and rambled about until it was time to sail again. From Albany I pursued my journey westward to Utica, then called Old Fort Schuyler, by stage. It took three days to make that distance which is now travelled in six hours. On the last day we broke an axletree in the midst of a wood and here I had the first opportunity of admiring American ingenuity. Coming from a country where men are rendered helpless by a rigid adherence to a subdivision of employment, I considered our accident fatal to our further progress for I thought that to make an axletree a man must be a professional wagon maker; and I was therefore not a little surprised to see our driver, with no other tools than an

ax, and perhaps an auger, construct in a little while an axletree which carried us safely to the end of our journey. A little incident connected with the foregoing has frequently made me smile. I will mention it here, as it will show you how difficult it is for a European with his head full of European ideas, to judge correctly of matters and things here. To mend our axletree the driver cut down a young sapling. This I looked upon as a trespass, rendered somewhat excusable by our condition. But when I saw him unceremoniously condemn this sapling as unfit for his purpose and proceed to cut down another, I looked upon this act as wanton waste and disregard of another's property.

Fort Schuyler consisted at that time of about two dozen houses standing on leased ground belonging to the Bleecker family of Albany. The year afterwards Mr. Boon purchased some of the ground on which the city of Utica now stands at ten dollars an acre. On the day following my arrival at Utica I went to Oldenbarneveldt to deliver the letters of introduction which my brother had given me for Messrs. Boon and Mappa. From them, and from the family of the latter, I met with a very fine reception, and as they were all Dutch, living in the Dutch manner and speaking the Dutch language, I felt as if I had been carried back again at once to my native country.

SUGAR EXPERIMENTS OF THE HOLLAND LAND COMPANY

Gerret Boon, one of the gentlemen just named, was a Hollander, and was at that time agent for some Dutch gentlemen (essentially the same with those known to you as the directors of the Holland Land Company) who held about ninety thousand acres of land in that neighborhood. There is an anecdote connected with the origin of this agency which is not generally known. Some Dutch gentlemen, misled by the statement of Brisset de Warville and others, into the belief, that sugar might be manufactured from the maple in such quantities and at such prices as to supercede the West India sugar, and that thus the slave trade might be greatly curtailed, resolved to make the experiment. They accordingly purchased about twenty-three thousand acres of land chiefly covered with sugar maple, and sent out Mr. Boon, a sugar refiner by profession, to superintend the manufacture. It is almost needless to add that this experiment proved a total failure, and that after expending some few thousand dollars on it, it was abandoned and the lands surveyed into small lots and offered for sale to settlers.

Mr. Boon was a gentleman of great personal activity and of considerable force of mind, but totally inexperienced in the settlement of wild lands. Hence instead of placing his village of Oldenbarneveldt, (now

Trenton) at the falls of the West Canada Creek, he placed it two miles farther west, on a small tributary stream and then endeavored to create there, by a dint of expense, a water power, far inferior to what nature offered to him on the Canada Creek. The attempt proved abortive.

COL. MAPPA

About two years after my arrival at Oldenbarneveldt, Mr. Boon returned to Europe and was succeeded in the agency by Col. Mappa. This was a Dutch exile; who, in the struggle against the House of Orange in 1786 and 1787, had commanded a body of patriot troops and who, after the revolution of 1787, had expatriated himself, and had emigrated first to France and afterwards to the United States. He was a man of a very hospitable, benevolent and kind disposition.

JOURNEY TO CAZENOVIA

I remained about two weeks at Oldenbarneveldt and then set out to go and spend the winter at Cazenovia. It was on this trip that I got initiated for the first time into some of the hardships which were then attendant on travelling in a new country. My route, until I got to within nine miles of Cazenovia was along the main Genesee road, and that run for 18 or 19 miles through the Oneida reservation. From the

eastern edge of that Reservation to Cazenovia was a distance of 30 miles, and this must be made in one day as there was no tolerable intermediate stopping place. I left the edge of the reservation in company with four other travellers at early daybreak. The ground was slightly covered with snow and the roads very deep and muddy. At half past three in the afternoon we reached Canaserago, an Indian village distant 18 miles, and here we got something to eat for our horses. From here I pursued my way alone. The sun was setting as I turned off from the Genesee road, my horse became weary, and had to be led, and thus, sometimes riding, sometimes walking, I reached Cazenovia at nine o'clock in the evening. At half after nine I got my *breakfast*.

RESIDENCE AT CAZENOVIA

At Cazenovia I spent the winter with Mr. Henry de Clercq, a young Hollander, a cousin of my brother's wife; who had come to the United States with my brother about three years before, and who had settled near Cazenovia as a farmer. My object in the selection of this residence was to make myself practically acquainted with farming, for I too had left Holland with the intention of becoming a farmer in America. I have since often smiled at the erroneous ideas which I, as well as numerous other Europeans, entertained

on this subject. In Europe the man who owns a hundred acres of good land is rich and can draw from it more than a competency with little more labour than that of superintending the cultivation of it. Now Europeans are apt to connect the same ideas with the possession of land in this country; and as they hear that very good land is to be had here at from two to four dollars per acre, they are led to believe that it requires but a few hundred dollars to make a man independent for life. I need not add that when I saw my friend de Clercq's farm covered with stumps, it did not exactly realize the beau ideal which I had formed to myself of a territorial possession; and when I learned afterwards that it had taken about \$4,000—to make his farm what it was, I became sensible that I was not rich enough to become a farmer.

I spent the winter of 1796-7 with Mr. de Clercq. He was then unmarried and lived in a small log-cabin. His family consisted of himself, a hired man, a boy and a housekeeper. The latter went frequently on a visit to her parents and would be absent for a week or two, leaving us to get along as we could; and I have frequently laughed at the style in which we kept batchelors Hall.

Mr. Lincklaen who was agent for the Holland Land Company of some lands which they possessed in that quarter asked me to aid his clerk until one

whom he expected should arrive. With him I spent part of the summer of 1797 and in the fall of that year I returned to Oldenbarneveltdt where I remained until the month of February 1802, when I removed to Philadelphia.

SOCIETY AT OLDENBARNEVELDT

During my residence at Cazenovia, the Dutch society at Oldenbarneveltdt had been increased by the removal thither of Mr., afterwards Doctor, Van der Kemp and his family; and was at this time full of attraction, particularly to a young Hollander still partial to the language and customs of his native country. Messrs. Boon and Mappa I have already mentioned. Dr. Van der Kemp was, like the latter, a Dutch exile. His life was devoted to study and he was one of the best read scholars which I have ever met with. Mrs. Mappa and Mrs. Van der Kemp belonged to the really excellent of this earth. To both I am indebted for a thousand acts of kindness, particularly to the former, who was a mother to me during my residence at Oldenbarneveltdt.

RESIDENCE AT OLDENBARNEVELDT

For the first two years I lived in comparative idleness. It is true that I made myself occasionally useful in making some excursion for the agency, or in assist-

ing my friends in a store connected with it, but I had no regular employment, and the few feeble efforts I made to get into business, proved abortive because I relied on others and had not yet learned to rely on my own exertions. At the end of this time a Mr. Smits, a Dutch clerk in the employ of Mr. Mappa, determined on returning to Holland. This clerkship was offered to me and accepted; and here commenced that connection with the Holland Land Company, and with the land business, in which the whole of my subsequent life has been spent.

The obtaining this clerkship to which a salary of \$500-a year besides board and lodging was attached, formed an important era in my life. I was now, not only earning my own living but with the rigid economy which I prescribed to myself, I was enabled to lay by the largest part of my salary to gratify the first wish of my heart, that of being useful to my parents. My father died before I had the means of giving effect to this wish, but I had the happiness subsequently to be useful to my mother and to my unmarried sister.

I have always looked back with pleasure to the latter years of my residence at Oldenbarneveldt, because that was a happy portion of my life. I had now a competency, and lived without care. My labours were light and of a pleasant kind. My amusements were simple, consisting chiefly in hunting or fishing

for trout; and I enjoyed the society of excellent worthy friends to whom I was sincerely attached, and by whom I was beloved in return; so that when I left Oldenbarneveldt, it was like parting again from my family and my home.

REMOVAL TO PHILADELPHIA

Mr. Smits, my predecessor at Oldenbarneveldt, returned to the United States about the year 1801 to become the bookkeeper of Mr. Busti, the agent general of the Holland Land Company. In the beginning of the year 1802, Mr. Smits died, and Mr. Busti then invited me to become a second time Mr. Smit's successor. As to this situation there was attached a salary of \$1200.—the offer was too advantageous to be refused. I therefore accepted it, and removed to Philadelphia in the beginning of February 1802.

Here again I found myself pleasantly situated. Mr. and Mrs. Busti were both of them worthy, kind, amiable and well informed. My fellow clerk, Mr. Defrance, was a kindhearted obliging young Frenchman.

My labour was easy, seldom occupying more than the forenoon. My income, which was already ample, was increased \$200.00 a year, by my being appointed Secretary and Bookkeeper of the Pennsylvania Population Company; and some time afterwards I received a mark of the confidence reposed in me by the Holland

Land Company, by being designated as the successor of Mr. Busti in the general agency.

My residence in Philadelphia was of service to me, not only in a pecuniary point of view, but also as, by bringing me in contact with the world, it served to enlarge my ideas, and to improve my manners, which latter, from my having almost constantly resided in the country, had never been sufficiently attended to. But though I thus endeavored to acquire the manners, and to conform to the customs of the new world into which I had been translated, I always retained my former predilections for the simple pleasures of life, and I was thus preserved from those dissipations which are but too common in large cities.

JOURNEY TO MEADVILLE

During the first year of my residence in Philadelphia, an opportunity offered itself of gratifying my love of traveling and I embraced it with eagerness. Major Roger Alden, who was at that time the Holland Company's Agent for their lands west of the Allegheny River, was no accountant himself; and having an equally incompetent clerk, his accounts had been confused. It became therefore, necessary that either the Major should come to Philadelphia with his books and papers, or that some one should go to Meadville to adjust his accounts. The latter was pre-

ferred, and I was designated to perform this task. I accordingly left Philadelphia on horseback (then the only mode of travelling in the interior) sometime in July, in company with Mr. Jabez Colt, who was at that time the Agent of the Pennsylvania Population Company for their lands in Crawford County. From Philadelphia to Strasburgh, at the eastern foot of the mountains, the country was, comparatively, tolerably well settled, but from thence to Greensburgh on the west side of the mountains all was wilderness, interspersed here and there either with small villages, such as Fannetsburgh, Bedford, Stoystown &c or with solitary stations for the accommodation of travellers. The roads across the mountains were then steep, and, to my unpracticed eye, they appeared to be totally impracticable for wheel carriages, having much the appearance of the dry bed of mountain torrents,—an aggregate of rubble stones from which every particle of earth was washed away. Road wagons, with light loads of merchandise, had however then for some time been in the habit of crossing the mountains.

I found Pittsburgh a very inconsiderable town, having little to recommend it except its site. It presented, however, a spectacle which so far inland was really a novel one. In the Monongahela river I saw two or three square rigged vessels intended for the navigation of the ocean. Two Frenchmen of the name of

Terrascon, residing in Philadelphia had established a shipyard at Pittsburgh. As you may suppose, the scheme did not succeed, and was shortly after abandoned.

From Pittsburgh to Franklin a road had been opened at the expense of the State along which were a few scattering settlements. From Franklin to Meadville there was only a horsepath, running nearly in the direction of the present creek road.

Meadville was in 1802 a small village, containing 25 or 30 houses, chiefly log ones, and a population of about 150 inhabitants. The country around it was chiefly in a state of Nature.

I remained at Meadville about four weeks, and then returned to Philadelphia by the way of Buffalo, Albany and New York, paying a visit to the Falls of Niagara and to my friends at Oldenbarneveltdt by the way. The settlements on the Holland Company lands in the Genesee Country were then in their infancy. From the Pennsylvania line to Buffalo there were but three small cabins, two near Westfield, and one on the Cataraugus Creek, and Buffalo itself contained perhaps a dozen and a half of log cabins. I returned to Philadelphia about the beginning of October and I felt that for once I had rode enough.

FIRST LAND PURCHASE

In June 1804, I purchased from the Holland Land Company about Twenty-two thousand acres of land north of Toby's Creek. This was the first of my land speculations, and it proved in the issue, a profitable one.

APPOINTMENT AS AGENT OF HOLLAND LAND COMPANY

In the summer of 1804 Major Alden sent in his resignation as Agent. Mr. Busti being at a loss who to appoint as his successor, I applied for that Agency and obtained it, with the addition of a superintending Agency of the Company's lands in the 5th and 6th districts east of the Allegheny river, which had been placed under the immediate Agency of William P. Brady and Robert Beatty. Most of my friends in Philadelphia thought that I did wrong in exchanging my comfortable situation in Philadelphia for the hardships and privations then inseparably connected with a residence in this country. I, however, had maturely considered this matter, and I thought then, and have thought ever afterwards that I acted wisely in taking the step I took. My principal reasons for exchanging my situation in the city for one in the country were two. My Brother Pieter had in the spring of 1804 arrived from Holland, and in the country I could more

easily provide for him, and besides I felt anxious to be settled in life, and have a home of my own, and this I considered as more easily attainable in the country than in the city. To this was added my predilection for a country life.

REMOVAL TO MEADVILLE

I left Philadelphia for the west in the month of September 1804; remained some time at Greensburgh; from whence I made an excursion to the Company's land on the Mahoning, in company with some Swiss settlers; and after some further detention at Greensburgh, by an indisposition of my Brother's I arrived at Meadville towards the latter part of November; and on the 1st of January 1805 I entered on the duties of my agency.

NATURE AND CONDITION OF THE AGENCY

As so large a portion of my life has been spent in connection with the lands which the Company held in this quarter, it may be well to say a few words in regard to them, and to their situation at the time they came under my care.

These lands consisted originally of about 500,000 acres. The Company purchased them from Judge Wilson for about \$200,000 and by the end of 1804 about \$200,000 more had been spent on them for various

purposes. The law under which these lands were taken up required, that the warrantee should make, within two years, a settlement improvement and residence on each tract of 400 acres, unless prevented by the enemies of the United States. As the Indian War continued till 1795, the warrantees contended that they were thus prevented, and that this excused them from making the required residence and improvement. Still the Company made strenuous efforts, by giving gratuities in land, and by making advances to settlers, to cause their lands to be settled. These efforts met with but a very partial success. To the difficulties naturally connected with the settlement of lands, situated at a great distance from the districts from which the settlers must be drawn, and of very difficult access, was added, that disputes arose as to the title. The same law under which these lands were held, authorized actual settlers to go on any of the unappropriated lands, to reside on and improve them, and to complete their title at a subsequent period, by paying the purchase money to the state. Under this clause of the law sundry speculators, such as Messrs. Watts, Scott, Miles, the M'Nairs, and others, who had no money to obtain lands by paying for warrants, endeavored to appropriate to themselves large bodies of land by means of surveys made on sham settlements and improvements. As most of the good lands had been appropriated by the war-

rant holders, these speculators, in order to enlarge the field of their operations, seized on those lands under pretext that the right of the warrant holders had become forfeited for want of the requisite settlements; and in order to strengthen themselves, they induced other persons to take possession of those lands in opposition to the warrant title. As such a doctrine was well calculated to become popular the country was soon covered with squatters; many of those who held contracts under the Companies, began to hold in opposition to them, and others sat quiet determined to await the issue of the contest, while another portion of them remained faithful to their engagements. Major Alden, who was the Company's agent for these lands, was a very inefficient man, altogether unequal to the difficulties of his station; while Mr. Alexander M'Dowell, who under him, had the charge of the lands in the 7th and part of the 6th Districts, neglected his Agency. It is true that in 1797 the Company, acting under the influence of a man supposed to be their friend, but really connected with these speculators, purchased their peace from Messrs. Watts, Scott and Miles, and converted them into nominal Agents, at a sacrifice of about thirty thousand dollars, but this did but little towards allaying the existing excitement. The political demagogues of the day encouraged the squatters in their opposition and enlisted the legislature in their

favor, so that, when I came to the Agency, the Company were contending for the possession of their dear bought property. For the rest, with the exception of some portion of the second district, every part of the Agency was involved in uncertainty and confusion; and the receipts to be derived from the sales and from the outstanding debts, were inadequate to defray the current expenses of the Agency.

In the spring of 1805 the cause of Huidekoper vs. Douglass was tried in the Supreme court of the United States and decision had in favor of the warrantees. That decision by which the title of the warrantees was declared to be complete, gradually restored peace to this country; and by a couple of years of exertion, those intrusions, so extensive and formidable when I entered on the Agency, were reduced to a few scattering, isolated cases. The angry feelings, however, which the contest had engendered, survived long after the contest itself had ceased and the injurious effects arising from a disputed title, were felt for many years afterwards. In all the troubles of those early days, however I never met with any personal violence; though such was frequently threatened. I have however reason to think that in a journey which I took in 1805 through the 7th district, I was once in imminent danger, though unconscious of it at the time. It was twenty years afterwards that I was one day fired at and my

horse wounded. This was on the State road between the two Brokenstraw Creeks.

PURCHASE OF HOMESTEAD

Having now concluded to make Meadville my permanent place of residence, I purchased, in the early part of 1805, the spot of ground on which I now reside, and contracted for the building of the house in which the family now live. When I purchased this property no part of it was cleared and enclosed except the fields south of the house. The rest of it was all in a state of nature, except that all the handsome forest trees, particularly on what forms now the yard, had been cut down and carried off for building or firewood. The shade trees in the yard and the fruit trees in the orchards are, with some few exceptions, all of my planting.

FIRST YEARS OF MARRIED LIFE

Having thus made provision for a home of my own, my next care was to look around for a partner to share it with me. On the 1st of September 1806 I was married to your excellent Mother, who for upwards of thirty-three years was the faithful and affectionate partner of my life. To you, my children, who have grown up under her truly maternal care, and who now, with me, mourn for her loss, it would be useless

to expatiate on her virtues and her worth. It was chiefly to her that we are indebted for that quiet spirit of order which has ever pervaded our home.

DEATH OF FIRST CHILD

From the summer of 1806 to the fall of 1809 I lived quietly at home, and I should have been the happiest of the happy, had it not been for one afflictive dispensation of Providence. In August 1807 your mother had presented me with a daughter. It was one of the finest and sweetest children I have ever seen. My soul doated on her. It pleased Heaven to take her away when she was nearly a year old. You, my children, who know how fond I have always been of children, can form some faint idea of what I felt on that occasion. Even now, after a lapse of more than thirty-two years it gives me pain to think of that loss. May God Almighty, my dear children, preserve you ever from a similar bereavement.

GRIFFITH AND WALLACE PURCHASE

In the fall of 1809 I was called to Philadelphia to assist at the sale of the Holland Company concern under my care to Messrs. Griffith and Wallace. This sale was cancelled on the 1st of February 1810 and I was appointed the joint Agent of the Vendors and the Vendees. I did then consider, and have ever since con-

sidered, that contract as a very injudicious one on the part of the Company, and believe it to have been the offspring of a movement of despondency and of mistaken views. To me personally, however, the change was advantageous. It is true that my fixed salary was reduced from \$2,400 to \$1,000 a year, but the rate of my commissions on sales and collections was increased so as more than to compensate for this deduction.

Messrs. Griffith and Wallace had in the year 1811 purchased from some Dutch gentlemen one thousand shares in the Pennsylvania Population Company. That Company was dissolved in 1812, and in 1813 Messrs. Griffith and Wallace put under my care that portion of those lands situated in the counties of Erie and Crawford, which belonged to them.

In the year 1812 Messrs. Griffith and Wallace employed a man of the name of William S. Hart to effect sales at a distance. It was through his agency that a considerable quantity of our good land here was exchanged for very indifferent farms in Berkshire, Massachusetts, which latter, being imprudently kept too long on hand, were ultimately sold at a very heavy loss. Wishing to accelerate the sales and finding that Mr. Hart effected little, Messrs. Griffith and Wallace associated with him Augustus Sacket, a man without principles, morals or talents, but who had been highly recommended to them by those who did not know

him. By the contract made with these men, they were entrusted with the sale of the Holland Company lands—Sacket was to reside at Meadville, and Hart to operate at a distance. Of the proceeds of the sales made by them, Messrs. Griffith and Wallace were to receive in the first instance, \$1.25 cents per acre, and the residue after deducting some contingencies, was to be divided in equal portions between the parties. To me was intrusted the collection of the money, and the making of the conveyances. This contract proved in the sequel the source of much trouble and vexation.

Sacket arrived here in 1813, and began by writing circulars to all the postmasters in New York and the New England states constituting them Agents under him for the sale of the lands, with the promise of a heavy commission. For the first year matters went on pretty smoothly. Sacket confined himself chiefly to retail operations, and I was uninformed of the misrepresentation he made use of to attract purchasers. But in the year 1814 things began to assume another aspect. Mr. Sacket was now surrounded by a set of reckless speculators, equally destitute of principles and of means. To these men he sold large bodies of land, at reduced prices, giving them a separate contract for each tract or part of a tract, with a clause, that in case of a resale by the speculator the sub-purchaser under him should be substituted in his place. In some of

these sales I have reason to believe that Mr. Sacket was secretly interested with the speculators. Some of these sales exceeded one hundred thousand dollars in amount; and in one case \$67,000 worth of land was sold to a man not worth a dollar, and who had never seen a foot of the land for which he contracted. The object of Mr. Sacket in making large sales to men with whom he was himself in partnership, was plain. By contract of agency he was to be entitled to only one-fourth of the profits arising from the sales, and by his connection with the speculators, he secured the one-half. And these large purchases were without any risk to the speculators as what could not be resold at an advanced price, might, at any time, be assigned to some nominal sub-purchaser. Mr. Sacket's object in selling large bodies of the more unsaleable lands to men notoriously not worth a dollar is less obvious. Perhaps he wished to have it in his power to show that there was a large amount of money due to him for his share in these pretended sales; and intended then, to sell out to some one at a distance, his supposed interest in those sales, as his partner, Mr. Hart, afterwards did, who sold to Messrs. Peck and Shattuck two-thirds parts of his eventual profits to be derived from the agency, for \$15,000. In order to supply the speculators he was interested with, with money, Mr. Sacket stipulated to make to them an allowance of two dollars per

hundred acres, nominally to pay for making surveys; and I was actually applied to to make this advance. As I was found to be intractable on this point and was likely to be in the way of some ulterior operations, and, among these of some secret arrangements between Mr. Miles and Mr. Sacket, it was determined to get me removed from the agency. In order to effect this it was deemed necessary to enlist the co-operation of some of the gentlemen in town. To procure this it was represented to them that it was my interferences with Mr. Sacket's operations which prevented the country from being filled at once with settlers and that as to any lands they themselves might have for sale, Mr. Sacket if left to act, could easily sell these for them at any price they might set on them. With some this bait took, and, during a temporary absence from home, a secret meeting was held, and certain statements made there by one of the speculators were signed by the parties present at the meeting and transmitted to Messrs. Griffith and Wallace.

In the mean time I was, as far as possible, kept in ignorance of what was going on and even of the contracts made, especially as to their details. I merely knew from the excitement got up that there were some machinations and intrigues going on around me which were intended to affect me, but of which for the time, I could not fathom the object; I felt my-

self surrounded by difficulties with which I could not grapple, because I could not see them, and during the summer and fall of 1814 I felt myself really made unhappy by the situation in which I found myself placed. Gradually, however, light began to dawn on the mystery by which I was surrounded and I began to perceive both its source and its object. In the spring of 1815 Mr. Sacket, in direct violation of his contract, went to Utica to sell lands for sundry persons in this neighborhood. His conduct there was of such a swindling nature and so outrageous as to open the eyes of the public here, at once, as to the real character of the man, and even to bring his sanity in question. In the summer of 1815 the contract between Messrs. Griffith and Wallace and Messrs. Sacket and Hart was cancelled. I experienced however for a long while afterwards some of the trouble to which it gave rise, and many of the evils that grew out of it .

DEATH OF ELDEST SON

In the year 1816 I met with an afflictive loss in the death of my eldest son, Frederic Wolters. The day before his death I had set out for Philadelphia, leaving him, as I thought, very slightly indisposed. He died in consequence of the rupture of an abscess in his lungs; and an express brought me the tidings of his death at Mercer, where I had been detained a day by

the rain; so that I had the melancholy satisfaction of being present at his funeral. My Frederic was a very fine intelligent child. In idea I had connected him with all my future plans of life. Long and deeply did I mourn his loss; but yet I did not feel on this occasion that sickening and heartrending sensation which I had experienced on the death of my first Anna.

INFLUENCE OF THE WAR
MESSRS. WURTS, DAY AND MEREDITH
PURCHASE FROM HOLLAND LAND CO.

The late war which broke out in 1812, by turning the attention of the public towards the lake country, served to bring this section of Pennsylvania into notice; and from that time onward the settlement and improvement of it has been going on with increasing rapidity, until the country has become what you now see. If Messrs. Griffith and Wallace could have retained their interest in it, it would now have made their families independent. But unfortunately for them, both of them were embarrassed before the purchase from the Company. In 1816 Judge Griffith found himself compelled to sell out his interests in this quarter to the Messrs. Wurts. He died some years afterwards at Washington, where he held the office of Clerk of the United States' Court.

The Messrs. Wurts made in 1818 partition with

Mr. Wallace. Previous to this partition, I agreed with them, in consideration of certain obligations to be assigned to me, to assume the lien of about \$56,000 which the Dutch gentlemen had on the lands derived from the Pennsylvania Population Company for a balance due on purchase money. On this partition Mr. Wallace assumed to pay the purchase money due to the Holland Land Company. The Messrs. Wurts, being embarrassed, assigned to sundry of their creditors, the obligations which, on this partition fell to their share. Out of these assignments sprung the agency for Messrs. Day and Meredith, and other smaller agencies which have been under my care.

Mr. Wallace becoming more and more involved, after assigning from time to time, to certain of his creditors, such portions of the Population Company concern as yet remained to him was obliged in 1829 to make a general assignment. He died suddenly in January 1837. In the preceding year I had purchased from the Holland Land Company the remainder of their concern under my care for \$178,400.

GROWTH OF THE COUNTRY

Although this section of Pennsylvania has not progressed in improvements with the same rapidity that some other portions of the United States have done; yet when I look back on what it was when I first

knew it, and consider it as it is now, the alteration is truly surprising. When I arrived at Meadville, the country was very thinly settled. Industry was at a low ebb. The few roads which had been opened were impracticable for wheel carriages. On the farm, the sled was used even in summer, for the purpose of hauling; and the settlers, when they visited the village, were most of them clothed in blanket coats and nearly all of them carried always with them those common appendages of the frontier: the rifle, the powder horns, the shot pouch and the hunting knife. Now we live in the midst of a comparatively dense population and a civilized society; and it is but seldom that we meet with any of the relics of those former days.

But it is not the physical aspect of the country and of the inhabitants alone which has been improved. A very marked alteration for the better has taken place in the moral condition of the latter. When I arrived here, and for years afterwards, there was not a single church or house of worship of any kind, in any of the four north-west counties and, I believe, there was none west of the Allegheny river. Now there is hardly a hamlet so small that has not at least one house of worship. The Rev. Mr. Stockton, a minister of the Presbyterian denomination was then settled at Meadville on a parochial income which probably did not amount to \$150.-a year. So far as I recollect, he was the only

stated minister in these four counties. The Methodists held occasionally a camp meeting, but beyond these the community possessed no opportunity for social worship and religious improvement. Now there are numerous ministers of the Gospel of different denominations, settled all over this country. Then the common schools were almost exclusively confined to the county towns, and even there they were generally of the poorest kind. Now there are several schools in every township. Finally intemperance and dissipation were then the common besetting sin of the community. Instances of them are yet but too often met with; but they are now only the besetting sin of individuals.

PERSONAL RETROSPECT

As to myself, the greatest portion of my life has been spent in the west, and I have been happy amidst its simple pleasures. Most of the information I possess has been acquired at Meadville, by reading and reflection; and I have become thoroughly convinced, that by far the most valuable part of a man's education is that which he gives to himself.

Few persons have enjoyed life more than I have done. Much of my happiness is no doubt to be attributed to the direction which my principal studies have taken for a number of years past. I have already stated that, though religion was never a matter of indiffer-

ence to me, yet that I had not formed distinct opinions as to many of its dogmas. I continued in this situation for a number of years. When, however, I had become a father, and saw the time approaching when I should have to give religious instruction to my children I felt it to be my duty to give this subject a thorough examination. I accordingly commenced studying the scriptures as being the only safe rule of the Christian's faith, and the result was, that I soon acquired clear and definite views as to all the leading doctrines of the Christian religion. But the good I derived from these studies has not been confined to giving me clear ideas as to the Christian doctrines. They created in me a strong and constantly increasing interest in religion itself, not as a mere theory, but as a practical rule of life. The firm conviction, that there is a God whose power upholds us, and whose paternal providence constantly guides us, and directs every event that befalls us, has become to me a source of confidence and trust at all times, and of consolation in the hour of trouble. For several years past I have been in the daily habit of reading some portion of the scriptures, particularly of the New Testament. I would recommend the same practice to you, my children, for I have ever found it a source of new light and of incentive to goodness.

I have now reached the evening of life, and when I look back on the past I feel that I cannot be suffi-

ciently grateful to God for the manner in which he has constantly ordered my lot and blessed me. It is true, by the recent death of your dear mother, one of the chief sources of my earthly happiness has been taken away, but, according to the common course of nature, our separation cannot be long; and in the meantime, how many blessings have I not left me,—in your affection;—in the kindness of my numerous friends;—in the affectionate caresses of my grandchildren and the means of occasional usefulness which are afforded me,—to cheer the evenings of my days?

Such, my dear children are the simple incidents of my life. To you alone they can have any interest, and to you this relation of them is dedicated by

Your affectionate father,

H. J. HUIDEKOPER

Meadville, Feb'y 28, 1840.



Professor Seely, of Allegheny College, presenting the diploma
of Doctor of Humanities, to Elizabeth Huidekoper Kidder.
Hill Home, June 11, 1951.

ALLEGHENY COLLEGE

Meadville, Pennsylvania

Office of the President

June 11, 1951

Elizabeth Huidekoper Kidder

Granddaughter of Harm Jan Huidekoper, one of the founders of Meadville and Allegheny alike, you have moved, step by stately step, in the tradition of that noble man.

Concern for your community was born and bred in you. By countless ways and in untold quiet acts you have fostered the welfare of Meadville and its surrounding region. Interest in young people has been one of the driving forces in your life. Many more than you might admit have been aided to prepare for enlightened service in the productive places of this world.

Allegheny faculty members have enjoyed your special attention. In former days the call upon a new professor and his family was a yearly mission, often followed by a memorable dinner at Hill Home. And you were not unwilling helpfully to orient a brand-new president now and then. During the years in Old Boston, travellers from Meadville were ever assured a welcome in your Commonwealth Avenue home.

Though the years have shortened your physical orbit, your alertness to world affairs and your guiding interest in humankind remain undiminished to delight the fortunate visitor.

Our region with its institutions for nearly one century you have endowed with the culture, the grace, the wit, and the wisdom of a great lady.

These are contributions of infinite worth. They are beyond measurement and incapable of reward. Yet as a slight token of the esteem this College holds for you, it gives me pride to confer upon you the degree of Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*. I ask that you be given a diploma and that you be invested at this time with a hood appropriate to your degree.